

The ONE Voice

“Relationship not Religion”

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April 4, 2021

Thread: Choosing Jesus as our highest goal of thought and action brings breakthrough clarity.

“Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith... We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,⁴ though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

...I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

¹² I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us... But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

Philippians 3:1–16 NLT

Paul is describing:

1. **PRESENCE** brought by Resurrection.

- Experiencing life while walking at the side of Jesus in relationship.

I wonder if we experience peace with God, ourselves, and the world around us?

2. **POWER** that produced the Resurrection.

- This goes way beyond “Don’t do”.
- Today we celebrate ALL the “get to’s” that presence empowers.

I wonder if we have come to grips with what is actually valuable in our lives?

3. **CHOOSING** Jesus as our highest goal of thought and action brings breakthrough clarity for HOW we live.

- The prayer of Jesus at Gethsemane, “My Father...Your will not mine.” (Matthew 26:39)

What in your life would be resolved today if you simply prayed one honest, heartfelt prayer? “Your will not mine.” “Oh God, my Father in Heaven, I don’t have to survive this one.”

Challenge:

- Religion or Relationship?
- Time to give my heart to a relationship with Jesus.

Check out these FREE online studies from Doug Britton for further study:

Understanding God through Knowing Jesus

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/understanding-god

Live by God’s Power, Not Your Own

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/gods-power

Seek to Please God in Everything You. Do

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/please-god

Life Group Homework

For the week of April 4, 2021

MY STORY

- 1) How was your Easter?
- 2) Where do you see God working in your life or in the lives of others?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What encouraged you from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER/ TAKING IT HOME

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.³⁰ For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

Luke 11:29-30 ESV

- 4) What did Jesus mean by the "sign of Jonah"?
- 5) Why is this sign so important?

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no Resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no Resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the Resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:12-26 ESV

- 6) Why is the Resurrection so important?
- 7) If Christ is not raised, what is our faith?
- 8) What does His Resurrection mean for our future, and what can that do for your faith?
- 9) What does Christ make us?
- 10) What is our hope as a Christian? What does that word mean when we toss it around as the Church?
- 11) How does the Resurrection bring true hope?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week for Chair Time I would like to encourage you to sit and think about the blessings Christ brings into our lives. This week is about a gratitude list we will give to God for all He does for us. Think about the following questions.

- 1) What does God's love mean to you?
- 2) What has He done that you are grateful for?